relating to exports to India by Sri Lanka of cigarettes manufactured with imported tobacco have also already been raised by the Government with Sri Lanka under the review of the Indo-Sri Lanka FTA.

The Government is fully committed to address the distortions in international trade in agricultural products through the negotiations under the Dhoa Round. The negotiations are aimed at eliminating export subsidies, substantially and effectively reducing trade distorting domestic support, and at securing substantial improvements in market access for agricultural products, including tobacco, through tariff reductions in India's export markets.

The Government will complement the rule-based multilateral trading system with RTAs which serve as building blocks and secure India's development imperatives, including protecting farmers from unfair trade practices on cash crops like Virginia tobacco. Any adverse effects that are witnessed are also taken up by the Government under the review of the concerned RTAs.

In order to promote the competitiveness of Indian tobacco in the world market, besides measures to enhance quality and productivity of tobacco through extension and developmental programmes such as model project areas and integrated pest management, concerted efforts are also being made to meet international standards for non-tobacco related matters, product integrity and traceability.

DNA finger printing certificate for basmati rice export

†*391. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Commission has imposed a condition of DNA finger printing certification from 1st July, 2006 for exemption of 42.5 Euro per tonne in respect of custom duty on Basmati rice;

(b) whether the Indian exporters of Basmati rice will have to attach a DNA finger printing certificate with each consignment of rice;

(c) whether they would have to contact the Export Inspection Council and the Centre for DNA finger printing, Hyderabad to get that certificate; and

(d) if so, arrangement being made by Government for that so that small exporters do not face unnecessary hardships in getting the same?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir. However, the European Commission has issued a Regulation No. 972/2006 of 29.6.2006 effective from 1st July, 2006 laying down the transitional arrangement for regulation of Basmati rice imports into the European Union. Article 6 of the Regulation stipulates that, in the context of random checks, Member States shall take representative samples of imported Basmati rice which shall be sent to the competent body in the country of origin for a DNA based variety test. The Member States may also carry out variety tests on the same sample in a community Laboratory.

(b) No, Sir. The provisions of Article 6 of the Commission Regulations No. (EC) 972/2006 of 29.6.2006, as stated above, apply.

(c) All Basmati rice export consignments destined for Europe are subject to issuance of Certificate of Authenticity (CoA) by the Export Inspection Agency under the Export Inspection Council of India. For DNA testing, if an importer seeks the same from the exporter, the concerned exporters would be at liberty to approach Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad for the same.

(d) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has extended financial support of Rs. 352 lakhs to Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad for setting up of a dedicated DNA testing facility for Basmati rice. The facility is fully operational for the benefit of exporters of Basmati rice.

Housing problem in the country

†*392. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making any efforts to tackle the housing problem at rural and urban levels in the country;

(b) if so, the number of houses constructed under the different schemes during the last three years and State-wise details of the houses allocated to poor and backward people of different communities;

(c) whether Government would be able to solve the housing problem by the end of the year 2015; and

(d) if so, the number of houses targeted to be constructed every year?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government is making

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.